discussed the range of problems that has hampered the growth and training of the ANP. I was appalled to hear that $6 billion has been spent to date on training contracts with very little to show for it. I understand the challenges of training a police force which is largely illiterate and suffering from high rates of attrition, but the answer is not to repeat the same mistakes or renew inefficient contracts.

The stakes are simply too high. We cannot afford for this training effort to be ineffective or approach police training as an ad hoc mission. We must demonstrate better oversight of this critical training program and ensure that our efforts result in the establishment of a qualified and committed Afghan police force. Moreover, we must consider building a stronger U.S. Government capacity to oversee future police training missions. As we look toward a future with fewer conventional threats and an increased number of insurgencies, there is no question that this capacity is needed to defend our security interests globally.

President Karzai is under enormous pressure to meet our high expectations and demands. In our recent meeting, we discussed our shared interest in a strong partnership and a productive visit to Washington. I understand that the pressure is growing as we focus on building subnational governance and as our military plans focus squarely on Kandahar, which is the home of the Taliban and an area where Karzai's family and tribe still exercise great influence.

I look forward to seeing President Karzai when he is here, and I hope to hear more about his plans to address corruption, improve governance, and enhance economic development. I hope he understands that the United States shares an enduring commitment to building a strong and sovereign Afghanistan, both in the near term and well into the future, so that our joint efforts now can benefit future generations.

NATIONAL LAB DAY

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today, to celebrate National Lab Day. While today is the official National Lab Day kick-off, National Lab Day is much more than just one day. It is an ongoing effort to bring scientists and engineers into the classroom to conduct hands-on experiments with students.

Last November, President Obama launched the ''Educate to Innovate'' campaign to motivate and inspire students to excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM, education. As part of this effort, President Obama announced the launch of National Lab Day and encouraged Americans to get involved. Created through a partnership between Federal agencies, foundations, professional societies, and other STEM-related organizations, support for National Lab Day grew quickly. Currently, projects are scheduled in every State, including over 1,000 schools.

I have spoken many times on the Senate floor about the importance of STEM education. I advocated for the inclusion of increased service opportunities for retired engineers and other STEM professionals in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. National Lab Day is an important step towards creating strong, long-term relationships between STEM professionals and educators.

Importantly, National Lab Day projects are teacher-driven. Teachers can register at the National Lab Day Web site and request funding or describe a project they would like to do with a STEM professional. Teachers can have STEM professionals help them assess, update, and repair current lab facilities and equipment, implement hands-on activities, conduct science fairs, mentor students, coordinate field trips, assist with lesson plans, and more.

Once teachers post their requests on the National Lab Day Web site, they will be matched with a list of local volunteers who have registered on the Web site. Volunteers need not only be STEM professionals, as university STEM students and other members of the community can sign up to help as well. Volunteers can browse teacher requests and will be notified of any matches to teacher requests that meet their interests.

A quick look at the projects posted on the Web site reveals intriguing titles such as VEX Robotics, Tech Genographics, Space—the Final Frontier, and Get Ahead—Design a Shed, to name a few. The Office of Science and Technology Policy blog recently highlighted a National Lab Day project that took place at East Side Community High School in Manhattan. With the recent major BP oilspill in the Gulf of Mexico, this particular lab was especially timely to students. A local college professor taught 10th graders how to clean and purify ''contaminated'' water made of tap water mixed with dirt, flour, salad dressing, and dish soap. This is exactly the type of hands-on experiment that National Lab Day promotes to expose young people to the real-world applications and wonders of STEM.

Support for National Lab Day is extensive. Key partners include: the National Science Teachers Association, American Chemical Society, MacArthur Foundation, Hidary Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation. Additionally, more than 200 educational, scientific, and engineering organizations support National Lab Day, including such groups as the National Education Association and the Association for Women and Science.

National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins is participating in National Lab Day by volunteering in a local District of Columbia school and he has encouraged NIH employees to get involved as well. American Society for Engineering Education President J.P. Mohsen is participating in National Lab Day and is encouraging other ASEE members nationwide to do the same in their local communities. First Lady Michelle Obama highlighted National Lab Day when she spoke to the team finalists at the National Science Bowl.

I have said many times that I believe the long-term vitality of our economy rests with our ability to use STEM to solve the major problems we face. Whether it is energy independence, climate change, life-saving cures for diseases, security challenges, or new solutions for transportation, STEM professionals are the world's problem solvers. Fortunately, young people today want to ''make a difference'' with their lives, but unfortunately, not enough of them see STEM as the way to do that.

National Lab Day will allow STEM professionals not only to share their unique skills and knowledge with educators and students, but it will also allow them to share the rewards of a career in STEM and the numerous ways that STEM professionals ''make a difference.'' National Lab Day, and the relationships it is fostering, will help inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. I applaud the volunteers, teachers, associations, and agencies that are participating in National Lab Day—today and in the future.

CRISIS IN THE PHILADELPHIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, in a four-part series titled ''Justice: Delayed, Dismissed, Denied,'' published in December 2009, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported on the failure of the Philadelphia criminal justice system to provide fair and speedy justice. ''It is a system that too often fails to punish violent criminals, fails to protect witnesses, fails to catch thousands of fugitives, fails to decide cases on their merits—fails to provide justice.''[i] Given that Philadelphia has the highest violent crime rate among the 10 largest cities in the United States, this is an urgent problem which Senator SPECTER has worked hard to address.

In the past 5 months, Senator SPECTER has taken a leadership role by holding three Senate field hearings, bringing together the experts and key players in the criminal justice system to work collaboratively to find solutions to these problems. He has sought and obtained funding for the U.S. Marshals Service's Fugitive Task Force to provide assistance in locating and arresting Philadelphia's fugitives. Finally, he has introduced and supported significant legislation to better protect State witnesses, to fund State witness protection programs, and to fund State fugitive recovery efforts and the entry of State warrants into the national warrant database.